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Agenda item 20 (b)

STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OR REGIONS

Andorra, Burundi, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Gabon, Greece, Guinea, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam and Yemen: draft resolution

Assistance for the construction and development of Djibouti

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 51/30 E of 5 December 1996 and its previous resolutions on economic assistance to Djibouti,

Recalling also the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,[1] adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries on 14 September 1990, as well as the mutual commitments undertaken on that occasion and the importance attached to the follow-up to that Conference,

Noting that the economic and social development efforts of Djibouti are constrained by the extremes of the local climate, in particular cyclical droughts and torrential rains and floods such as those that occurred in 1989, 1994 and, more recently, in October and November 1997, and that the implementation of reconstruction and development programmes, as well as of the

[1] A/CONF.149/18, part one.

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demobilization programme, requires the deployment of substantial resources which exceed the real capacity of the country,

Conscious that Djibouti is included in the list of least developed countries and that it is ranked 162nd out of the 175 countries studied in the Human Development Report 1997,

Noting also that the situation in Djibouti has been made worse by the deteriorating situation in the Horn of Africa and in particular in Somalia, and noting the presence of tens of thousands of refugees and persons displaced from their countries, which has, on the one hand, placed serious strains on the fragile economic, social and administrative infrastructure of Djibouti and, on the other, caused serious security problems in the country,

Noting also with concern that a number of priority projects have been suspended because of the decline in financial resources and because of the devastating effects of the incessant conflicts in the region, including the destructive and continuing crisis in Somalia,

Emphasizing that there is an urgent need to provide financial support in the areas of demobilization, reconstruction and rehabilitation of the regions affected by the civil strife, with a view to strengthening peace and stability in the country,

Noting with satisfaction that the Government of Djibouti has begun to implement the structural adjustment programme, and convinced of the necessity to support that financial recovery programme and to take effective measures to alleviate the consequences, in particular the social consequences, of that adjustment policy, which is in the course of implementation in order that the country may achieve lasting economic results,

Noting with gratitude the support provided to relief and rehabilitation operations by various countries and by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[2]

1. Declares its solidarity with the Government and people of Djibouti, who continue to face critical challenges owing, in particular, to the scarcity of natural resources and the continuing critical situation in the Horn of Africa, especially in Somalia;

2. Welcomes the implementation by the Government of Djibouti of the structural adjustment programme and, in that context, appeals to all Governments, international financial institutions, the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations to respond in an appropriate manner, as a matter of urgency, to the financial and material needs of the country;

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[2] A/52/434.

3. Expresses its gratitude to the States and international intergovernmental organizations which pledged to provide financial and material assistance at the round table on Djibouti which was held in Geneva on 29 and 30 May 1997;

4. Considers that implementation of the demobilization programme and of the national rehabilitation plan and reinforcement of democratic institutions require appropriate assistance in the form of financial and material support;

5. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his efforts to make the international community aware of the difficulties faced by Djibouti;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue, in close cooperation with the Government of Djibouti, his efforts to mobilize the resources necessary for an effective programme of financial, technical and material assistance to Djibouti;

7. Also requests the Secretary-General to prepare a study of the progress made with regard to economic assistance to Djibouti, in time for the question to be considered by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.